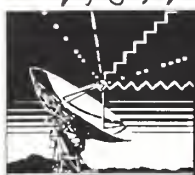


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2750

February 2, 1996

GLICKMAN RETURNS EARLY FROM ASIA -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman cut short his Asian trade trip this week to return and work closely with the members of Congress in an effort to adopt a new Farm Bill. And after months of debate, it appears these efforts are now bearing fruit. This week, Congress is expected to bring bipartisan Farm Bill legislation to the floor. Secretary Glickman explained, "Because of the critical nature of this business, it is with deep regret that I must shorten my trip to Asia and return to Washington, D.C. after I complete my discussions in Beijing with my Chinese counterparts. I want to state clearly, that I plan to make myself and my staff available to assist Congress as they work in a bipartisan manner to craft this important legislation and give U.S. farmers the information they need as they enter the planting season."

Contact: Jim Petterson (202) 720-4623.

USDA OFFERS "EARLY-OUT" FOR CRP -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (January 25) an 'early-out' option for some producers with acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Acreage released under 'early-out' will have crop acreage bases, allotments and quotas restored for the 1996 crop year. Secretary Glickman said, "This early out option is important for several reasons. First, producers should have the opportunity to take advantage of the high market prices by planting more of their land. Second, the offer is consistent with USDA's responsibility of ensuring a grain supply that meets market demand. Third, offering an 'early out' for productive, less erodible land is consistent with the commitment to an environmentally sound, cost-effective CRP." This 'early-out' option applies only to those CRP contracts scheduled to expire on September 30, 1996. Eligible land must have an erodibility index of 15 or less. **Contact: Wayne Baggett (202) 720-2032.**

FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION DECLINES -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (January 25) that participation figures for November 1995 show 25.9 million people were receiving food stamps, down from 26.9 million people in November 1994. Glickman credited an improving economy for the decline in participation. **Contact: Alicia Bambara (703) 305-2039.**

PL 480 COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS REVISED FOR FY '96 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (January 30) issued second quarter revised fiscal year 1996 allocations under Title I of the Food for Peace Program (P.L. 480) and the Food for Progress Program funded by Title I appropriations. According to Christopher E. Goldthwait, general sales manager for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, Title I funds totaling \$210 million have been signed with 19 countries under P.L. 480 Title I and Food for Progress agreements. In October, allocations totaling \$30 million were also announced for Angola, Croatia, Moldova, and Poland. Because USDA's authority for entering into P.L. 480 agreements expired at the end of calendar year 1995, these agreements cannot be signed until Congress acts to provide new legislative authority. **Contact: Glenn Kaup (202) 720-3329.**

GLICKMAN COMMENTS ON THE U.S. REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS -- U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor's action to request consultations under Article XXII of the World Trade Organization against the European Union's Hormone Ban underscores the U.S. government's determination to end this long-standing unfair trade practice and restore access for U.S. meat exporters to this important market. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said, "I view this action with frustration, resignation and resolve. Frustration because the evidence is overwhelming that proper use of these hormones poses no danger to human health. Resignation because the United States can wait no longer in hope that the EU will willingly follow the principles of sound science as outlined in the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement and allow the use of these hormones. Resolve because the U.S. position is the right one. It has been proven scientifically over and over again." Glickman concluded by saying that the U.S. meat producers and exporters should be assured that our government will not allow bad science to be used as a non-tariff barrier. **Contact: Jim Petterson (202) 720-4623.**

WHEAT RELEASED FROM FOOD SECURITY WHEAT RESERVE -- President Clinton authorized Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman to release up to 1.5 million metric tons of wheat (January 23) as needed over time from the Food Security Wheat Reserve for emergency humanitarian food assistance program. The wheat can be used by the USDA to provide food assistance to developing countries during fiscal year 1996 under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, otherwise known as Public Law 480. Secretary Glickman said, "The release from the wheat reserve will allow the USDA and the Agency for International Development (AID) to meet our anticipated food aid and shipping requirements. This action allows the U.S. Government to honor its commitment of providing humanitarian aid to developing countries." For fiscal year 1996, 300,000 metric tons of wheat are available from commercial supplies for programming under P.L. 480 operations. Because of this limited availability, it was necessary to access the wheat reserve. **Contact: Glenn Kaup (202) 720-3329.**

SPECIAL UPLAND COTTON QUOTA #2 RELEASED -- High cotton prices have triggered another special import quota that will permit the importation of a quantity of upland cotton equal to one week's domestic mill use, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced (January 25). The special import quota that will permit the importation of 43,242,096 kilograms (95,332,580 pounds) of upland cotton was established on January 31. The quota applies to upland cotton purchased not later than April 29, 1996, and entered into the U.S. not later than July 28, 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. Future quotas will be established if price conditions warrant. **Contact: Janise Zygmunt (202) 720-8841.**

FAX -- You can obtain our radio and TV programming information and the **Broadcasters Letter** through your facsimile machine by calling USDA's **AgNewsFax**. Use the telephone connected to your **FAX** machine to call **(202) 690-3944**. At voice prompts press **1**, press **4**, then to receive **Broadcasters Letter**, press **9200**; radio newslines information, press **9250**; TV contents billboard, press **9260**; TV scripts, press **9270**. After all your selections, then press **#**, press **3**, and press the **start** button on your **FAX** machine.

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA # 2018 -- In this edition, you will hear more ways to take off weight wisely. The experts say the key is simple "Diet and Exercise." **(Weekly cassette -- five minute documentary).**

CONSUMER TIME # 1497 -- No proven benefits from Beta Carotene supplements. Cooking healthy. Bringing back the wetlands to the Mississippi Delta. Products from sheep abound. Weight off wisely. **(Weekly cassette -- consumer features).**

AGRITAPE # 2010 -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman returns from China trip. CRP early out. Cotton demand strong despite high prices. The new cattle report. U.S. pork exports continue to rise. Pork production costs rising. **(Weekly cassette -- news features).**

UPCOMING ON THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Thursday, February 8, crop production (cotton/citrus). Friday, February 9, full crop production report, cotton markets and trade, world agricultural supply and demand, cotton and wool outlook. Monday, February 12, world agricultural production, grain markets and trade, world oilseeds markets and trade, feed outlook, rice outlook, oil crops outlook, cattle and sheep outlook. Tuesday, February 13, farm labor report and weekly weather and crop report. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.

COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545

Material changed at 5:00 p.m., ET, each working day and 10:30 a.m. on crop report days.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEATURES: Lynn Wyvill reports on a community garden in Seattle, Washington which is one example of the Urban Resources Partnership in action. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service is one of several federal agencies working with local communities in eight cities to protect and improve natural resources in the urban environment.

ACTUALITIES: USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator Grant Buntrock comments on the "early-out" for Conservation Reserve Program acreage and USDA meteorologist Bob Stefanski describes weather's impact on the winter wheat crop and the improving situation in California.

SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWS FEEDS: Thursdays from 3:45 to 4:00 p.m. ET, Telstar 402R (located at 89 degrees West), Transponder 13, Vertical Polarity, Downlink Frequency 3960 MHz.

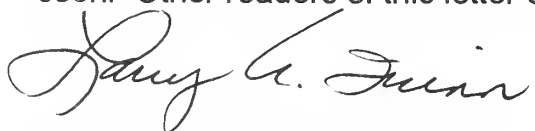
Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services. Call Larry Quinn, (202)720-6072, or write to: Room 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300. Internet E-mail: LQuinn@USDA.GOV.

OFF MIKE

WELCOME VISITOR...last week was **Karl S. Gutknecht**, Director of Public Affairs for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Karl is the newly elected president of the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) for 1996. A Wisconsin native, he holds an advanced journalism degree from University of Wisconsin and began his government communications career as an Army combat correspondent in Vietnam. "The information revolution is having a tremendous impact on the way government serves its customers, on how information is delivered and received, and on how the public relates to government services," Karl says. "Government communicators are challenged as never before to effectively use cyberspace technologies."

IT'S DRY...in the High Plains of the Texas Panhandle, reports **Bob Givens** (KGNC, Amarillo, TX). They have received less than a half inch of moisture since October, only .07 inches in January. As storms passed that area this week, they were hopeful of boosting their moisture records. Our thanks to Bob's colleague, **Larry DeSha**, who alerted us to a quality problem on one of our daily radio newslines. It happened to be on the first machine in the rotation so stations who called at less busy times constantly heard tapes from that machine. We have removed that machine from our newslines service so stations should experience more consistent quality now.

1996 AGRICULTURE FACT BOOK...is off the press and like earlier editions, this 244-page book offers basic facts about U.S. agriculture and rural America. It also describes programs in USDA's seven major mission areas. The fact book is available for \$9.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (Phone: 202-512-1800). Members of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters will be receiving copies of this book soon. Other readers of this letter can obtain a single free copy by contacting my office.



LARRY A. QUINN, Director
Video, Teleconference and Radio Center



United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Communications
Room 1618-S
Washington, DC 20250-1300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300